MINISTRY OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF BEACONSFIELD

Lib

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1964

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEACONSFIELD

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1964

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEACONSFIELD

Chairman of the Council: Mr. H.A.H. Gray.
Vice-Chairman of the Council: Mr. D.R. Mullis.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman: Mrs. Y.M. Astbury.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.E. Tilbury.

Councillors: Mr. N.K.S. Bramer.
Mrs. D. Darling.
Mrs. E.M. Diamond.
Mr. J. Dill Smith.
Mr. G.H.D.R. Greene.
Mr. J.L. Kirconel.
Mr. O.S. Puckle.
Mr. S.N. Whitehead.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health: R.E. Atkinson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, Chesham Urban District Council, Deputy Divisional Schools Medical Officer, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Public Health Inspector: Mr. P.J. Bunce, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Clerical Staff

Shorthand/Typist : Miss K. Allen.

Tel: Beaconsfield 5601

Public Health Department
Council Offices,
Beaconsfield.

July 1965.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1964.

In preparing the report, the Public Health Inspector has been of very great assistance and I would like to place on record my appreciation of his help. The standard of health within this district is high and the health services maintained by both the Council and the Bucks County Council are extremely satisfactory.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues, the Council's other Chief Officers, for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

R.E. Atkinson.

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. General

Population (Estimated mid-year)	11,000
Area (acres of district)	5,314
No. of habitable houses (per rate book) as at.	1.1.65
Rateable Value of area at 1st April 1964 ..	£ 645,383
Product of penny rate (1964/65)	£2673

2. Vital Statistics

(a) Live Births:

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	72	93	165
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Total Live Births	73	96	169

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.4
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.4
Comparability factor	0.99
Corrected birth rate	15.20

(b) Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births 17.4
Total live and still births 72

(c) Deaths

Infants deaths	1
Infants mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	5.9
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births..	5.9
Maternal deaths(including abortion)	1.0
Death rate per 1,000 population	8.5
Comparability factor	1.12
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	9.5

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differ from that of England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales and the corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table, the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation, which caused 49% of the deaths and cancer which caused 18%.

	DISEASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
1.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	0	1
2.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	2	4
3.	Diabetes	1	2	3
4.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	7	3	10
5.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
6.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	4	14	18
7.	Coronary Disease, Angina	10	9	19
8.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
9.	Other Heart Disease	1	4	5
10.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	1	3
11.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
12.	Bronchitis	2	1	3
13.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
14.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1	1
15.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
16.	Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
17.	Other defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	2	6	8
18.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
19.	All other accidents	1	-	1
20.	Suicide.	1	1	2
21.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	1	1
22.	Meningoccol Infections	1	-	1
		43	51	94

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1964

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar General Estimated Pop. Mid-1964.	Crude Birth rate per 1,000 population	Crude death rate per 1,000 population	Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births	Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still-birth
URBAN								
Aylesbury	27,923	32,510	24.2(787)	7.6(247)	0.031(1)	11.4(9)	10.2(8)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	10,013	11,000	15.4(169)	8.5(94)	0.091(1)	5.9(1)	5.9(1)	5.81 (1)
Bletchley	17,095	20,610	24.2(499)	7.0(145)	- (-)	6.0(3)	4.0(2)	- (-)
Buckingham	4,379	4,740	17.7(84)	8.0(38)	- (-)	11.9(1)	- (-)	- (-)
Chesham	16,297	19,100	24.9(475)	9.3(177)	0.105(2)	16.8(8)	12.6(6)	2.07 (1)
Eton	3,894	5,290	13.2(70)	4.9(26)	- (-)	14.3(1)	14.3(1)	- (-)
High Wycombe	49,981	54,060	22.5(1,218)	8.2(442)	0.055(3)	17.2(21)	14.0(17)	- (-)
Linslade	4,139	4,470	25.1(112)	13.0(58)	- (-)	8.9(9)	8.9(1)	8.62 (1)
Marlow	8,724	9,630	21.2(204)	9.1(88)	0.208(2)	44.1(9)	24.5(5)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	4,743	5,260	21.3(112)	19.6(103)	- (-)	17.9(2)	17.9(2)	- (-)
Slough	80,781	84,900	21.5(1,828)	7.6(645)	0.047(4)	19.1(35)	14.2(26)	- (-)
Wolverton	13,113	13,040	16.5(215)	11.7(153)	- (-)	18.6(4)	14.0(3)	- (-)
TOTAL URBAN	241,082	264,610	21.8(5,773)	8.4(2,216)	0.049(13)	16.5(95)	12.5(72)	0.51 (3)
TOTAL COUNTY	488,233	528,010	20.1(10,636)	8.7(4,617)	0.045(24)	16.7(178)	13.2(139)	0.37 (4)
ENGLAND AND WALES	46,071,604	47,401,300	18.4	11.3	-	20.0	-	-

NOTE: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION 11

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Hospital Services.

Beaconsfield is just within the area of the Windsor Group Management Committee of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The Council has one member serving on the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee and the House Committee of the Taplow Hospital.

Hospitals available for the District in the Windsor Group Management Committee Area:-

Tuberculosis	Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General	King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, Maidenhead Hospital: Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Bucks: Upton Hospital Slough and Iver, Denham and Langley Cottage Hospital, Iver.
Infectious Diseases	Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.
Maternity	Canadian Red Cross Hospital: Collinswood Maternity, Upton Maternity and Princess Christian Maternity Hospitals.
Mental Deficiency Hospitals.	Church Hill House, Easthampstead, Bracknell, Berks: Clarefield Court, nr. Maidenhead, and Binfield Park, Binfield, Berks.
Mental Hospital	St. Bernards Hospital, Southall, Middx.
Psychiatric Out-patient sessions.	King Edward VII Hospital, Upton Hospital and Maidenhead Hospital.

The boundaries of the district flank those of the adjoining Oxford Hospital Region and many patients are referred to hospitals in that area.

2. Laboratory Services.

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water and sewage effluent for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

3. Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Service.

The following Nurse Midwives practised in the Town during the year as follows:-

Miss G.I. Snell, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Miss M. Towers, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Their address is: Nurses' Home, Candlemas Mead, Beaconsfield. Telephone: Beaconsfield 3954.

Miss M.R. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
(Area Relief District Nurse/Midwife)

Address: 3, "The Ferns", London End, Beaconsfield.

4. Health Visitors.

The following Health Visitors are based in the Council Offices at Beaconsfield and cover Beaconsfield Old, New Town and Holtspur.

Miss M. Gundry S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Mrs. P.J. Stickley S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss H. Hayler S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. covers Wooburn Common and is based at Victoria Road, Marlow.

5. Child Welfare Centres.

		LOCATION	SESSION	M.O. ATTENDS
(a)	Beaconsfield	The Old Rectory	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m. each month.	Each session
(b)	Holtspur	St. Thomas' Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Tues. 2 p.m. each month.	Third Tuesday each month.

6. Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council. The Beaconsfield area is covered by the High Wycombe Station, West End Street, High Wycombe. (Telephone No: High Wycombe 1871)

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/51

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, inform or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the Local Authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place. It has not been necessary to take any action under this Section during the year.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. There has been no cause for any action under this Section.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from an epidemic of measles, the district was comparatively free from notifiable infectious disease during the year.

DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES 1964	1963	1962
Measles	311	48	74
Puerperal Fever	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever	0	2	0
Whooping Cough	4	7	0
Tuberculosis	0	2	2
Acute Pneumonia	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	1	0
Dysentery	0	0	2

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General Administration

Day-to-day inspections of houses, shops and factories have been carried out through the year. The following is a summary of the visits paid during the year ended the 31st December, 1964.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	10
Drainage	69
Tents, Vans and sheds	201
Outworkers	3
Factories and Workshops.	11
Licensed Premises.	8
Refuse Collection and Disposal	37
Rats and Mice	298
Atmospheric Pollution...	62
Schools	21
Public Conveniences	12
Visits to filthy and Verminous premises... ...	9
Miscellaneous	56

Housing

Public Health Act: No. of houses inspected ...	14
Public Health Act: No. of visits paid	43
Housing Act: No. of houses inspected	71
Housing Act: No. of visits paid	92
Overcrowding: No. of houses inspected	1
Overcrowding: No. of visits paid	4
Improvement Grant Inspections	40
Miscellaneous...	7

Infectious Diseases

Visits following notifications of Infectious Diseases ...	114

Noise Nuisance

Visits following notifications of nuisance ...	7

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Visits (mainly in connection with registration).	87

Visits to Food Premises

Butchers	14
Canteens	2
Fishmongers and Poulterers	19
Grocers	31
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	5
Dairies and Milk Distributors...	1
Food Preparing Premises...	3
Restaurants...	7
Bakehouses	15

Service of Notices

No. of informal notices (all types) served during 1964..	39
No. of informal notices complied with. ...	37
No. of statutory notices served during 1964.	1

1. Water Supply

There is a piped water supply to the whole of the Urban District. The supply is provided by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and the Bucks Water Board. The former serves the Old and the New Towns and the latter Holtspur and District.

The water contains a high degree of temporary hardness and therefore no problems from plumbo-solvency occur. An adequate supply has been maintained throughout the district during the year. The water samples sent for Bacteriological Examination proved to be satisfactory.

There are now no wells supplying drinking water within the district.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

Nearly the whole of the district is connected to one of the two sewerage systems. The Old Town is sewered to a modified broad irrigation works at Hedgerley Lane and the New Town and Holtspur areas are sewered to the disposal works off Riding Lane at Holtspur.

The majority of the cesspools remaining are for premises which are outlying and these are emptied free, within 48 hours of receiving notification.

In June serious blockages to the main sewer in Gregories Road occurred. It was found that a number of fractures in the sewer were the cause and it was necessary to re-lay a length of sewer to by-pass the blockages. Whilst this work was in progress the foul sewage was diverted into the surface water sewage system. As the surface water sewer concerned discharged into a pond at Holtspur, the liklihood of spread of disease and nuisance from smell and flies, was greatly increased.

However, the firms supplying antidotes for these public health hazards responded to appeals for immediate deliveries of the necessary materials and equipment and the possible nuisances were averted. Special mention must be made of the complete co-operation received from the Surveyor. Many of the treatments could not have been effectively applied without the help of his workmen.

3. Collection and Disposal of Refuse

The house-to-house collection of refuse has been maintained on a weekly basis throughout the year. Extra weekly collections are made to shop premises as required, and in these cases a small annual charge is made.

The refuse is taken to a private tip just outside the Beaconsfield Urban District and is being used as back-filling to a gravel pit. The paper salvage is sorted, baled and sold to one of the local paper mills. Metal is taken by a scrap merchant.

Sixteen informal notices were served on private households requiring renewal of defective dustbins.

4. Housing

The number of properties, shown below, controlled by the Council at the end of December, 1964, was 781 as compared with 751 at December, 1963.

Housing Accommodation:	December 1964.	December 1963.
Pre-war Council Houses & Flats	224	224
Post-war Council Houses & Flats	535	505
Prefabricated Bungalows	22	22
	781	751

Since the war, the Council have made every effort to provide units of varied accommodation for all needs, as follows:-

4 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses ...	...	4
4 Bedroom (Maisonettes) Type Houses	...	2
3 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses ...	...	20
3 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses	...	220

3 Bedroom (Maisonettes) Type Houses	...	18
2 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses	...	133
Bungalows	...	15
Flats	...	123
		535

The following figures show the housing development in the district during the last ten years:-

Year	Private Development. No. of Housing Units	Council Development No. of Housing Units.	Total
1955	63	20	83
1956	75	24	99
1957	89	3	92
1958	124	55	179
1959	87	8	95
1960	136	8	144
1961	105	8	113
1962	117	31	148
1963	54	2	56
1964	73	30	103
Total houses built in last 10 years.	923	189	1112

There are at present 137 private houses under construction. No Council houses are being erected at the moment although schemes are in hand for an additional 34 flats and maisonettes at Holtspur Way, Holtspur and an old peoples block of 40 units at Station Road, Beaconsfield.

5. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Standard Improvement Grants

3 applications were received during the year. 4 were completed and the following amenities provided:

Water Closets	2
Washbasins	2
Bath	2
Hot Water System...	3
Ventilated Food Cupboards	2

The total grant paid on these three properties was £362.

Discretionary Improvement Grants

Until 30th June of this year it was the policy of this Council not to accept applications for discretionary grants unless very special circumstances prevailed. As this policy virtually precluded anyone from getting a discretionary grant, a number of categories were submitted to the Council whereby certain houses could be considered for a grant.

The categories approved included the following:-

1. Houses which are owner/occupied, where the owner qualifies for entry on to the housing list.

2. Tenants of private property who have the opportunity of purchasing that property and who qualify for, or are, on the housing list.

3. Council tenants and applicants on the housing list wishing to purchase a property within the Beaconsfield Urban District.

4. Young married couples, wishing to purchase or who have purchased a house without the prescribed amenities, who are potential housing applicants.

In order to understand these categories it must be appreciated that no person can qualify for a Council House until they have resided within the urban district for at least five years.

Even though these categories now exist, and the matter was reasonably well advertised when the alteration was made, it will be noted that no applications for discretionary grants were made in the following six months.

6. Housing Act, 1957

The following is a summary of day-to-day complaints of housing defects dealt with during the course of the year by informal action:-

Repairs to Gutters	4
Repairs to chimney stacks	1
Repairs to roofs (dampness abated)..	1
Repairs to drains (including rainwater drains)..	3
Repairs to window frames	1
Repairs to water closets	1
Repairs to doors	1
Repairs to wall (dampness abated)...	3
Repairs to plaster	2
Repairs to sashcords	1

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The Bucks County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, sample milk produced in the district. These samples are sent for bacteriological examination, primarily for Tubercle Bacilli. The examination also, however, reveals the presence of Brucella organisms. When such organisms are isolated, the District Medical Officer of Health is informed.

One dairyman in the district produces and bottles his own T.T. milk, which is sold raw. He has agreed to carry out six monthly "Ring Tests" on the milk produced. The milk from cows giving positive results is sent to be pasteurised.

It is a great pleasure to record the co-operation which this department has received, both from the dairyman and his Veterinary Surgeon.

2. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Routine inspections of the premises subject to the above Regulations have been carried out, and where necessary, the owners have been asked to make alterations or additions.

3. Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs have been voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Description.	CWT.	QRS.	LB.	OZ.
Home Killed Meat	8	3	4	0
Imported Meat	1	8	0	0
Canned Meats	0	0	23	0
Other Foods	0	0	0	0

Some complaints were received about food which was alleged to be not of the quality demanded when purchased. All the complaints were fully investigated and in each case retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers or producers as appropriate were notified. No legal proceedings were taken but where necessary warning letters were sent.

One case of deliberate fraud was discovered and the enquiries and investigations carried out resulted in the dismissal of the shop manager.

4. Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

There are now 34 shops selling ice-cream within the district, only pre-wrapped ice-cream being sold.

SECTION VII

1. Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no Pet Animal shops within the district.

2. Game Act, 1831

Number of Game Licences issued:- 7

3. Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

Number of licences renewed:- 12
A total of 16 inspections were made under the Regulations.

4. Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Number of premises registered:- 1

R.E. Atkinson.

Medical Officer of Health

P.J. Bunce.

Public Health Inspector

APPENDIX I

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES (1)	NO. ON REGISTER (2)	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS (3)	WRITTEN NOTICES (4)	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	9	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	29	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	39	38	3	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel, making, etc., cleaning and washing.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains and nets.	2	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	5	-	-	-	-	-